

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00372 01 OF 02 271202Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 MCT-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /083 W
-----049890 271208Z /10

O R 270936Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6836
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0372

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, WA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: FLEUR DE VILLIERS ARTICLE

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF SUNDAY TIMES (FEB.26) ARTICLE BY
FLEUR DE VILLIERS ON NAMIBIA TALKS WHICH MAKES THESE POINTS:
(A) SAG MAY PUBLISH FULL RECORD OF TALKS IF THEY FAIL TO
"PROVE" SOUTH AFRICAN REASONABLENESS AND TO SHOW WEST "CONSISTENTLY"
RAISED ITS DEMANDS AS THE TALKS PROGRESSED? (B) BLACK AND
WHITE SWA LEADERS EXPRESSED TO BOTH A "ADAMANT OPPOSITION
TO KEY WESTERN PROPOSALS"; (C) SWA LEADERS EXPECT SOUTH
AFRICA "TO GUARANTEE THE TERRITORY'S SECURITY UNTIL INDEPENDENCE";
(D) "SOME BLACK LEADERS" ASKED FOR MORE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS;
(E) PROSPECT OF INTERNAL RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT STRENGTHENED SWA
LEADERS "DEMAND" FOR ELECTIONS AND ABANDONMENT OF EFFORT TO REACH
AN INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED SETTLEMENT; (F) SOUTH AFRICA
MUST BE SEEN TO PURSUE THE TALKS "TO THE BITTER END" TO DENY
TO THE WEST "ANY EXCUSE TO SUPPORT UN SANCTIONS WHEN THE TALKS
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00372 01 OF 02 271202Z

FINALLY BREAK DOWN".

2. BEGIN TEST: QUOTE: PRETORIA MAY SPILL THE BEANS ON SWA;
LAST DITCH BID TO WIN WORLD SYMPATHY IF TALKS FAIL.
SOUTH AFRICA MAY PUBLISH THE FULL RECORD OF ITS NEGOTIATION
S
ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA IF THE SETTLEMENT TALKS FINALLY BREAK

DOWN.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID YESTERDAY THAT THIS
DRAMATIC STEP COULD BE THE FINAL EFFORT TO PROVE TO THE WORLD
HOW REASONABLE SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS.

PUBLICATION OF THE FULL RECORD COULD EMBARRASS THE
WEST AND MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR IT TO SUPPORT AANY
ATTEMPT TO APPLY UN SANCTIONS.

THE RECORD WOULD PROVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HOW THE WEST
HAD CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE ON THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN
TROOPS IN THE TERRITORY AND CONSISTENTLY UPPED ITS DEMANDS
ON SOUTH AFRICA DURING THE YEAR-LONG SERIES OF TALKS.

MEANWHILE, DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT SOUTH
AFRICA HAS GAINED AT BEST ANOTHER TWO WEEKS OF NEGOTIATING
TIME AFTER THE VISIT TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER,
MR. PIK BOTHA, THIS WEEK.

SINCE THE BREAK-UP OF THE TOP-LEVEL TALKS IN NEW
YORK THIS MONTH, THERE HAVE BEEN INFORMAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN
SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS, AND SOUTH AFRICA
IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE AWAITING A REPLY TO ITS LATEST PROPOSALS.

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PAGE 03 CAPE T 00372 01 OF 02 271202Z

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE WINDHOEK TALKS- IN WHICH
SOUTH WEST AFRICAN LEADERS, BLACK AND WHITE, EXPRESSED THEIR
ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO CERTAIN KEY WESTERN PROPOSALS- COULD
STRENGTHEN SOUTH AFRICA'S HAND IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

THIS WEEK'S STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF AMERICAN NEGOTIATOR
MR. DONALD MCHENRY, THAT SWAPO SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS THE ONLY
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE WILL MAKE IT
DIFFICULT FOR THE WEST TO IGNORE THE OPINIONS OF OTHER BLACK
POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE TERRITORY.

SOUTH WEST AFRICAN SOURCES SAID THIS WEEK THAT
LEADERS OF THESE ORGANISATIONS - INCLUDING SWANU AND THE NAMIBIAN
NATIONAL FRONT- HAD BITTERLY OPPOSED WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR:

--A LARGE UN TASK FORCE TO REPLACE THE SOUTH AFRICA TROOPS.
--THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO HAVE ADMINISTRATIVE
RATHER THAN MONITORING POWERS.

THE LEADERS ALSO SAID THEY EXPECTED SOUTH AFRICA
TO GUARANTEE THE TERRITORY'S SECURITY UNTIL INDEPENDENCE--
ALTHOUGH THEY LEFT THE SIZE OF A MILITARY FORCE NECESSARY TO
ACHIEVE THAT TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

IN VIEW OF THE GROWTH OF THE TERRORIST WAR, SOME
BALCK LEADERS ASKED FOR THE PRESENT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP STRENGTH
TO BE RAISED.

THE PROSPECT OF AN INTERNAIONAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA
HAS STRENGTHENED DEMANDS BY SWA LEADERS FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO
SET A DATE FOR ELECTIONS IN THE TERRITORY AND ABANDON EFFORTS
TO REACH AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SETTLEMENT.

NEVERTHELESS, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MR. BOTHA
MANAGED TO GAIN A LITTLE MORE TIME TO PERSIST WITH NEGOTIATIONS,
BEFORE ANNOUNCING AN ELECTION DATE.

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PAGE 04 CAPE T 00372 01 OF 02 271202Z

SOUTH AFRICA, IT IS EMPHASISED, MUST BE SEEN TO PURSUE
THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE BITTER END, IF IT IS TO DEPRIVE
THE WEST OF ANY EXCUSE TO SUPPORT UN SANCTIONS WHEN THE TALKS
FINALLY BREAK DOWN.

MR. BOTHAS PLEA THIS WEEK TO SWAS WHITE LEADERS TO
FORGET THEIR DIFFERENCES IS SEEN AS A DISGUISED ATTACK ON THE
TERRITORYS NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
IS IRRITATED AND ALARMED BY THEIR CONTINUED RESISTANCE TO
ONE MAN, ONE VOTE.

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00372 02 OF 02 271204Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0372

SOUTH AFRICA, AS MR. BOTHA MADE CLEAR, HAD BEEN
COMMITTED TO THE ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE PRINCIPLE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA
FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND WAS NOT GOING TO BACKTRACK.

THE NATIONAL PARTY ATTITUDE COULD, IT IS BELIEVED,
HAVE DENTED THE WESTS BELIEF IN PRETORIAS INTEGRITY.

MR. BOTHAS "HEAL THE RIFT" SPEECH IS SEEN BY OBSERVERS
AS A THINLY-VEILED WARNING TO THE PARTYS WINDHOEK LEADERS
TO STEP INTO LINE. END TEXT.

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